

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 14

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Cisco McSorley

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF CORRECTIONS, THE WARDEN OF CAMINO
12 NUEVO CORRECTIONAL CENTER AND OTHER CONTRACTORS TO COLLABORATE
13 WITH THE WOMEN'S JUSTICE PROJECT ON TRANSFORMING CAMINO NUEVO
14 INTO AN APPROPRIATE GENDER-RESPONSIVE LOW-SECURITY FACILITY FOR
15 WOMEN.

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17 WHEREAS, the Camino Nuevo correctional center houses
18 female inmates who are classified at the lowest security
19 levels, who are close to being released and who require the
20 tools that will allow for their reintegration into our
21 communities; and

22 WHEREAS, the Camino Nuevo correctional center is centrally
23 located in the Rio Grande corridor, where gainful employment
24 and reintegration opportunities exist; and

25 WHEREAS, Camino Nuevo's location in the city of

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1 Albuquerque allows for easy transportation of the children of
2 female inmates for visitations and familial bonding; and

3 WHEREAS, allowing inmates to connect with their
4 communities and families has been shown to reduce recidivism
5 and to provide more positive outcomes for women placed in the
6 corrections system; and

7 WHEREAS, national research shows that effective gender
8 programming and gender-sensitive environments improve
9 institutional culture, result in positive outcomes for female
10 inmates and reduce recidivism; and

11 WHEREAS, the Camino Nuevo facility was originally
12 constructed to house the most dangerous juveniles classified at
13 the highest security levels, and despite the lowest security
14 classification of women now housed at the facility, the
15 environment continues to reflect high-security incarceration
16 practices; and

17 WHEREAS, serious allegations of sexual assaults upon
18 female inmates have arisen this past year and are believed to
19 be partially due to the current institutional environment at
20 the Camino Nuevo correctional center;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of corrections, the
23 warden of the Camino Nuevo correctional center, the corrections
24 corporation of America and other contractors at the facility be
25 requested to collaborate with the New Mexico women's justice

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1 project and to allow the New Mexico women's justice project and
2 other relevant members of the community, as selected or
3 approved by the New Mexico women's justice project, to assist
4 in transforming the environment at Camino Nuevo, including
5 assistance in educational and vocational training, community
6 and family reintegration, mother-child bonding, employment
7 opportunities, behavioral health services and modifications of
8 the physical environment at Camino Nuevo to meet the goals of a
9 successful low-security facility for women; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the corrections department
11 examine and, if necessary, renegotiate its contracts to better
12 address the goals of transforming the Camino Nuevo correctional
13 center into a model facility for successful reintegration of
14 women; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of corrections,
16 the warden of the Camino Nuevo correctional center and the New
17 Mexico women's justice project report to the appropriate
18 interim legislative committee during the 2008 interim on the
19 progress of this collaborative process and on any changes or
20 improvements made to the environment and services at the
21 facility; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of corrections, the warden of the
24 Camino Nuevo correctional center, the corrections corporation
25 of America and the New Mexico women's justice project.

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